

A FEW DAYS IN SITKA

During the first week of August, I had to help an old timer travel to the Pioneer's Home in Sitka. Having never been to Sitka, this was a good opportunity to see a part of Alaska that I had not seen before.

It does not get much more picturesque. Sitka is an attractive little town. I had three days there, and I must admit that on foot, one was enough. If I had rented a car, I could have got out of town, but that was not something I could do. However, having three days gave me time to retrace my steps when I wanted to. As always, when time permits, I am on the lookout for Alaska tokens and medals, and if nothing else, Sitka offered an adequate amount of bar tokens. Prices in (\$X) indicates that samples are available. Add \$3 per order for shipping and handling.



An older drink token is still available. It is uniface, and dark red on cream colored plastic. (\$5).

Walking around Sitka can be a chore if a cruise ship or two is in port. The sidewalks are crowded with tourists. I cannot conceive having a couple thousand tourists plopped down on Second Ave. in Fairbanks. In fact, Sitka's downtown, with all the tourist shops, is actually larger than downtown Fairbanks, even though Fairbanks is many times larger in population.

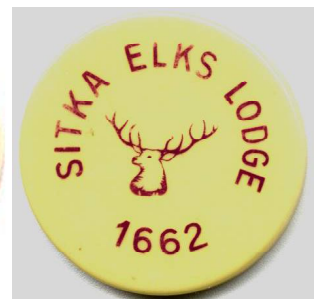
A walk along Lincoln Street past the Russian Bishop's House (now part of the Sitka National Historical Park), the intersection of Lincoln and Jeff Davis Streets (!), and Sheldon Jackson College and Museum takes you to the Totem

The most recognized landmark in Sitka has to be the Russian Orthodox Church (St. Michael's Cathedral). Lincoln Street is the main business thoroughfare. A stones throw from the Church was an automated elongated cent machine.



Of the four choices, only one was distinctly Sitka - the Church. The other three were generically Alaska. I must admit that I did not get any of those.

The Church can also be seen on the current drink token from the Elks Lodge. It is one of the better made drink tokens that I have seen. While most establishments opt for inexpensive tokens, the drink "medal" is quite nice in heavy bronze. (\$6).



(continued on page 44)

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Well, last month was a little late, and this month is a little early. Did not want to have to worry about getting it out after the long Labor Day weekend.

I have started something new in the issue. If I have a piece available for sale, it will be noted (\$X) in the text of the article. When I travel, I will pick out only a few of each, so a phone call or email would be recommended if you really want an item.

Most of the items in this issue are drink tokens that I had to pay full drink price for. The profit on this is minimal, but I realize some may have a hard time paying \$5 for a wooden nickel.

Two great items sold at auction this month. A Nome Clearing House Certificate can be found on page 46. A previously known but unillustrated R.J. Negus token also sold. Its PR can be found in the next column, and it can be viewed on page 48.

Our heat wave has finally broken, and we are having normal, August weather - cool and rainy. However, the smoke is hanging in there. If there is anything worse than warm and smoky, it is cool, wet and smoky!

The Hanscom family is in for a busy year as our exchange student arrived from Ecuador. We will be doing things we have not done in the thirty years we have been here. Since she is from the equator, we will have to take her across the Arctic Circle, and possibly to dip her toes in the Arctic Ocean!

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Chatanika , Dempsey, 25¢, B-3a	31.05
Chitina , Navada Bar, 12½¢, B-4a	95.00OB
Cordova , Horseshoe, 6¼¢, B-19a	OB70.00NB
Fairbanks , Pioneer Hotel, 5¢, B-45ai	OB20.00NB
Fairbanks , Pioneer Hotel, 25¢, B-45c	OB20.00NB
False Pass , Harris, 5¢, B-1a	510.00
Goodnews Bay , Joe Jean, 25¢, B-1a	47.00
Goodnews Bay , Joe Jean, \$5, B-1d	37.00
Hawk Inlet , Harris, 25¢, B-1c	79.00
Hoonah , Ice Straits, \$1, B-2d	37.60
Juneau , Burford's, 50¢, B-12c	OB40.00NB
Juneau , Elks, 12½¢, B-19bi	OB60.00NB
Juneau , Mecca, 6¼¢, B-50b	OB150.00
Juneau , Garnick Encased Cent, H/S	40.00OB
Juneau , Allman Silversides copper	OB35.00NB
Ketchikan , Arctic Club, \$1, B-4b	88.32
Ketchikan , BFP, 50¢, B-6d	OB12.00NB
Ketchikan , BFP, \$1, B-6e	20.00OB
Ketchikan , Lange's \$1, B-29c	OB30.00NB
Ketchikan , Lange's \$1, B-29d	OB20.00NB
Ketchikan , Lotus Buffet, 6¼¢, B-31c	OB45.00NB
Ketchikan , Nelson Hotel, \$1, B-34b	OB25.00NB
Ketchikan , Scandia, 5¢, B-55a	OB90.00
Ketchikan , Scoug's, \$1, B-56d	OB40.00
Ketchikan , Stedman, 12½¢, B-60baii	OB15.00NB
Ketchikan , Stedman, 12½¢, B-60bi	OB25.00NB
Ketchikan , Stedman, 25¢, B-60c (3)	OB35.00
Ketchikan , Pioneer Barclay, 25¢, B-42b	45.00OB
Kobuk , Brown, Set of 3, B-1	30.00OB
Port Alexander , Pastime, B-5a	OB30.00
St. Michael , Negus, 50¢, B-1b	1992.12
Seward , Northern, 12½¢, B-8b?	OB35.00NB
Seward , Palace, 12½¢, B-9c	OB115.00NB
Skagway , M&E, 50¢, B-16d	20.00OB
Skagway , M&E, \$5, B-16f	OB30.00NB
Thane , AGM Club Room, 12½¢, B-1a	30.00
Valdez , Blackwell/Rowdy, B-2a	458.33
Valdez , Buffet, 12½¢, B-4b	35.00OB
Valdez , Day, 6¼¢, B-5a	825.00
Valdez , Northern, 6¼¢, B-15a	OB40.00NB
Valdez , Pinzon, 25¢, B-16dii	24.50
Yes Bay , APF, 5¢, B-3a	45.00OB
AYPE Gold , 1 DWT	161.50
Parka Head gold set of 3	OB5,500.00NB

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve
 BIN = Buy it now

SITKA, CONT.

Pole Park and other historical sites in the SNHP, including a battle site and a Russian Memorial. Many totem poles line the paths in the park.



To the left has to be one of the most photographed signs in Alaska. It just is ironic that Lincoln Street and Jeff Davis Street intersect. Fortunately, the Jeff Davis this street is named for is not the Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy, but the first US military commander in Sitka. But how many tourists bother to figure this out? They go home with an amusing, but incorrect tale to tell their friends.

The second most recognizable landmark is the Sour-dough statue in front of the Pioneer's Home. This image graces the obverse of the tokens of the Pioneer Bar.

The Pioneer Bar really cleaned up on me as they have six tokens of different values, in two varieties, making for a total of 12 pieces. The two varieties are with rim, 42mm; and without rim, 41mm. The graphics are also a bit different, but all are a "Rain Check." The colors are white, black, blue, red, green and yellow, all with gold printing. I only picked up one complete set and it is \$65 for the 12 pieces.



The American Legion had several tokens, the oldest appearing to be 34mm drink tokens in aluminum and brass. They also had a wooden nickel good for one beer and a white on blue plastic, 41mm drink token (All \$5 each).



Finally, the Moose Lodge #1350 has wooden drink and beer tokens. The first is a wooden "dollar" size token for one beer, printed in green. This seems to match a known wooden drink token that was no longer available.

SITKA, CONT.



There are two normal size wooden tokens. They are both printed in black on the obverse. The reverse of the drink token is red, and the reverse of the beer token is blue. (All \$5 each).

To order any of these tokens, please email or call to confirm they are available. Orders can be sent to ARC, P.O. Box 72832, Fairbanks, AK 99707. Include \$3 per order for shipping and handling.



In my wanderings, I didn't only visit the bars looking for tokens. I visited the Sheldon Jackson Museum, with its displays of Alaska native artifacts, tastefully laid out in an octagonal building. Of particular interest were the trade articles on display. To my disappointment, they did not have a "tinnah."

I failed to find the one souvenir that I really wanted - an embroidered patch of the Russian American Co. flag!



I also visited the Sitka Historical Society/Isabel Miller Museum. This little museum provided me with one of the nicest surprises of the trip. In one of the cases was what appeared to be a plaster cast of an incomplete obverse of the medal made by Heraldic Arts Co. to note Alaska Statehood in 1959! The cast was large, 12 inches or larger. The image is poor as all I had with me was disposable, point and shoot camera. The 30mm medal is shown for comparison.

AN OFFER FROM THE ISABEL MILLER MUSEUM

I was surprised to find a bowl of the official 1967 Alaska Purchase, 64mm (very large) bronze medals at the Museum for only \$4.85. If all they had were in the bowl, I would have purchased them all. But alas, they have more. So, rather than purchase and resell them, I suggested that they sell them to you.

You can purchase these medals for only \$4.85, plus \$5.15 for priority mail and insurance. Limit of 3 per mailing (one would be \$10, three medals would be \$4.85 x 3 plus \$5.15 = \$19.70).

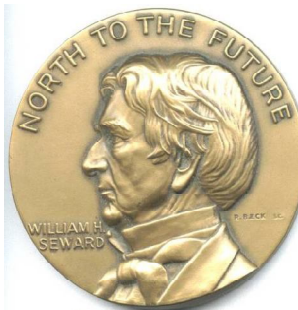


illustration reduced

Send orders to: Sitka Historical Society/Isabel Miller Museum, 330 Harbor Drive, Sitka, AK 99835

PAPER POTPOURRI



From the Lyn Knight, August 2004 auction.
Green and black, 76mm by 174mm.
PR - \$6,500 plus fees (\$7475 total)

Signed by:

Miners and Merchants Bank: J.J. Cole (?)
Alaska Banking & S(afe) D(eposit) Co. : F.H. Thatcher(?)
Nome Bank and Trust Co.: A.E. Todd
Payable to the bearer on or before July 15, 1908.

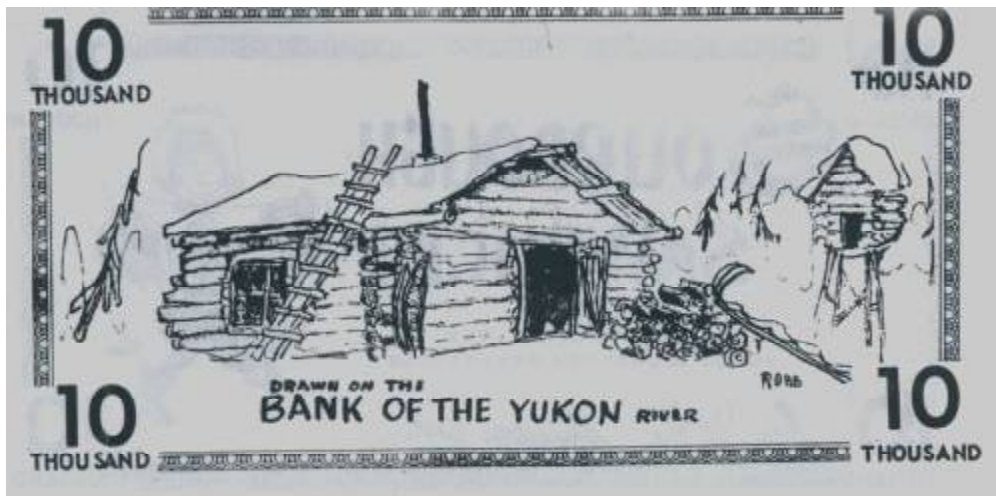
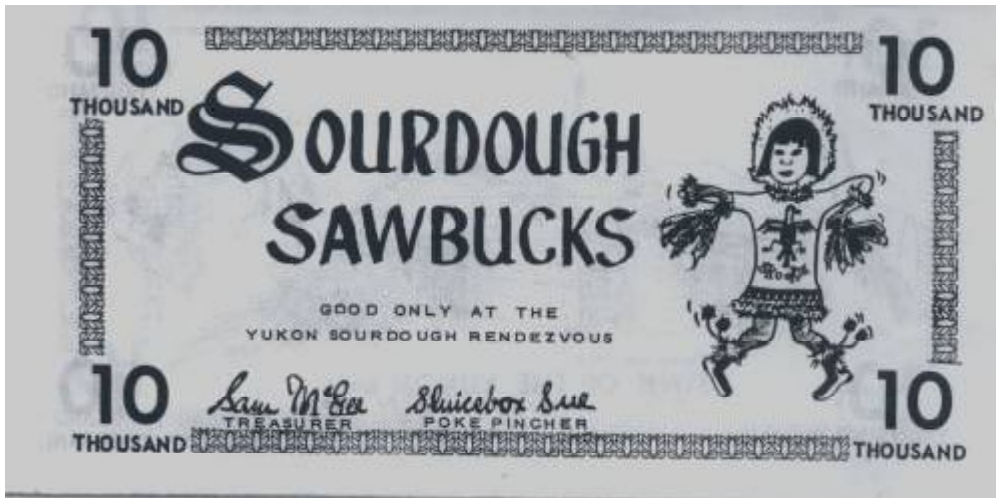


Porter's Perfect Pepsin Gum: "This Bill is Not Good for Its Face Value except on a Sand Bank in the Klondike Gold Fields. The front is a replica of a Confederate \$500 note. Illustration reduced, approximately 76mm by 173mm

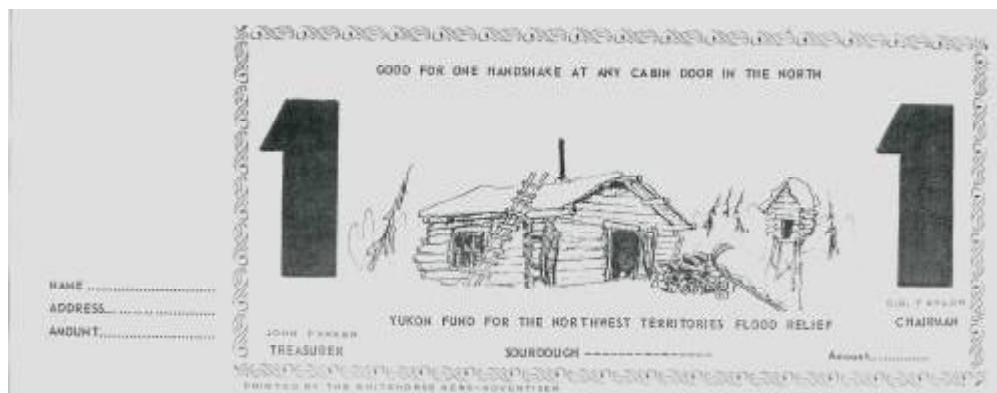
2003 STATE MEDAL MINTAGES - LYNX

Silver		Gold	
2 oz.	185	3 oz.	19
1 oz. proof	7,318	1 oz.	170
1 oz. matte	741	½ oz.	108
½ oz.	786	1/10 oz.	237
¼ oz.	1,078	1/20 oz.	132
1/10	1,401		
1/20	713		

JIM ROBB'S YUKON PAPER POTPOURRI



(WHITEHORSE): Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous. Mid-sixties gambling scrip, art work by Jim Robb. Size reduced, approximately 160mm by 80mm.



WHITEHORSE: Yukon Fund for the Northwest Territories Flood Relief, Good for one handshake at any cabin door in the north. Mid-sixties fund raiser. Artwork by Jim Robb. Green printing on white paper. Size reduced, approximately 279mm by 108mm.

FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: Westmark Inn, Good for one drink. Black on wood (eBay).



(ANCHORAGE): Subway, \$1 off. Reportedly issued in 1996 to students that graduated from Service High School. Green on wood (eBay).

FAIRBANKS: Subway, buy one get one free. Multi-colored, "Fairbanks Ice Dogs" twice on the edge. Heavy plastic like modern gambling chips. Given to members of the Fairbanks Ice Dogs Hockey Team, individually numbered so that they could be used only once a day. (Shown at the bottom of this column).

(ST. MICHAEL): R.J. Negus, 50¢ in trade. Aluminum, 30mm. Listed (B-1b), but not illustrated. (Illustrated at the top of the right column).



ENDICOTT OIL FIELD: B.P., 200,000,000th barrel of oil, Dec., 1992. Alaska Mint, One ounce pure silver.



HUTT RIVER PROVINCE: "Alaska at War", from their World War II series. Cupronickel, 39mm. HRP is a wheat farm in the state of Western Australia that declared its independence because of low wheat quotas. It is pretty much ignored by the Australian government.



FORT BRAGG, CA: Klondike Saloon, Axel Colberg, Good for one drink. Approximately 21mm.